

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SECURING GAMING  
MACHINE OPERATING DATA  
ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

A method and apparatus for securing control or operating code or data of a gaming machine is disclosed. One embodiment of the method includes the steps of obtaining gaming device operational code encrypted in a symmetrical encryption process with a first private key, providing the encrypted code to the gaming device, decrypting the code using the first private key, storing the decrypted code at the gaming device, and utilizing the decrypted code to operate the gaming device. In one embodiment, the gaming device includes a master gaming controller having an associated memory, a processor for executing code, and a secure access module having the decryption key associated therewith.

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